

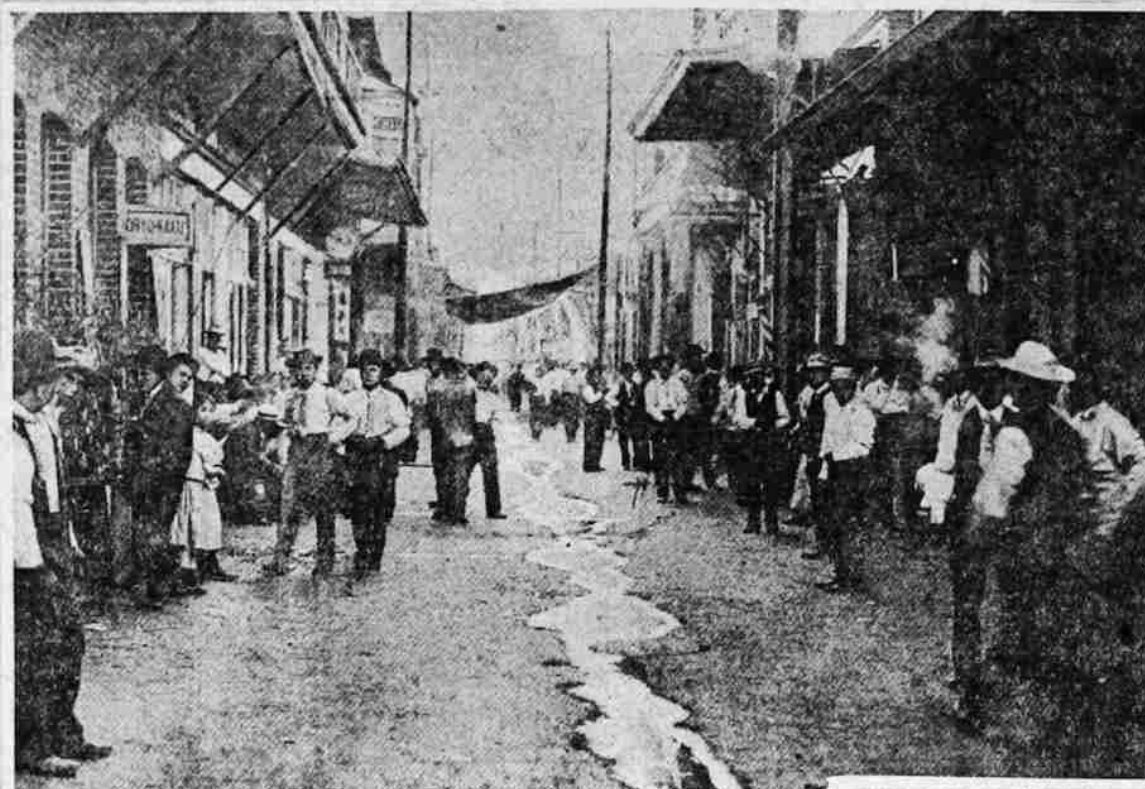
Japanese "Understanding" is Not Meant for All Asiatics

California Seeks Not to Interfere With Such Rights as Japan Has Had Under Treaty

By SYDNEY GREENBIE

IN a letter to Henri Bergson dated June 13, 1907, the late Prof. William James said: "I thank Heaven that I have lived to this date—that I have witnessed the Russo-Japanese War and seen Bergson's new book appear—the two great modern turning points of history and of thought." I do not know exactly what Prof. James meant by this, or which way he was looking, but his reading of current events was prophetic. Without doubt the Russo-Japanese War marks the beginning of a new era for Asia. And likewise for us, for shortly after the Russo-Japanese War, so great had become the prestige of Japan, that America entered into an agreement

Graphic illustration of the Oriental invasion of America. One picture shows a street teaming with Japanese and not an American in sight; another shows Asiatic workers in the rice fields, and the third is a street of one-time American homes and stores now wholly Japanese.



What the New Land Law Means and How Oriental Communities Build Up So Quickly

The 1913 land law permitted the leasing of land for three years. In this law (1920) the clause "and may in addition thereto lease lands in this State for agricultural purposes for a term not exceeding three years," has been dropped.

In the 1913 law no special section had been included to prevent Japanese from appointing themselves guardians over their minor children. In the new act the guardianship feature has been defined and limited so that no Japanese may have himself so appointed, or may be removed by the Superior Court when it is proved that he has failed to file the report required or that the property is not being administered in the primary interests of the ward. The provisions are so wide as to make it almost impossible for a Japanese to look after the property interests of his American born offspring.

Hereafter any trustee looking after the interests of any alien who through inability to become a citizen cannot hold title to property himself must make an annual statement of such holdings, showing the extent of the property, when it came into his possession and an itemized account of the turnover "with particular reference to holdings of corporate stock and lease, cropping contracts and other agreements in respect to land and the holding or sale of products thereof." A fine of \$1,000 or a year imprisonment or both is the penalty for failure to make such a report.

Both laws are the same as to the disposal

would really be no Japanese problem there. In order, therefore, to check conspiracy there has been added to the 1913 land law, section 19, which makes it a crime punishable by two years imprisonment in the county jail or State penitentiary, or a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both, for "two or more persons to conspire to effect a transfer of real property, or of an interest therein, in violation of the provisions of this law."

Here, then, is the gist of the whole Japanese problem; whether it is a solution of it or not remains to be seen. Pro-Japanese claim that this "yellow peril" talk is a recurring pre-election scare. If so, those politicians who have sought to get themselves into office have done themselves out of future campaign material. It is interesting to note that Senator Phelan, who has been charged by many to have had none but political motives in furthering this propaganda, has not been re-elected. Yet the land law was passed. It is therefore obvious that the issue had deeper than four-year roots. This election has shown that the Japanese problem is not purely an election issue.

Californians Satisfied But Wish

For Action at Washington

The Californians now have their pretty much as they want them. It remains for Washington to assist them in its solution or undo their success. Reports have it that our Ambassador to Tokio has been closed with the Japanese Ambassador to Washington and that a new treaty is forthcoming.



with her leaving it to Japan to decide who shall or shall not be eligible for admission into the United States.

Because this arrangement in no manner solved the problem, California has finally passed an act for the rigid exclusion of Asiatic people from the ownership of land there. It sounds more drastic than any other land laws I have seen. Australia's included, but this is so simply because it strikes at Japanese already here instead of preventing them from coming here. California assumes this attitude toward the Federal Government. "If you won't resort to effective means of keeping the Japanese out, we'll make it unprofitable for them to want to come in." I am by no means convinced that this is the most just procedure, but the initiative measure passed at the last election by an overwhelming vote leaves absolutely no room for doubt as to the feeling of the people there.

However, the gradual penetration of America by the Japanese, which has caused California to pass this law, must not be regarded as a purely local matter. The enforcement of this new law is bound to cause a redistribution of the Japanese population here. In October, 1920, the Orient made its first real jump across America. The local newspaper of Ithaca, N. Y., published the account of a Japanese who had driven his little Ford, trailing two wagon loads of household effects and the paper said: "nine children. This Japanese gentleman had driven all the way from Texas and on arriving at Ithaca he camped on the road above the shore of Lake Cayuga for a couple of weeks while he was negotiating for the purchase of a fifty-acre piece of land. He planned to take up dairy and garden truck farming, to send his children to school and himself to enter the Department of Agriculture of Cornell University. No mention was made of what his wife would do."

From the point of view of the California land situation, this is perhaps a heartful sign of relief. The proper distribution of the Japanese now in the country to break up any tendency to clannishness is imperative. But care must be taken that regions do not precipitate a flood of California Japanese upon themselves by too open a welcome. That would simply be a shifting of the problem from one section of the country to another. Florida, it seems, has now given such an invitation to Japanese. What is bound to be the result?

Interviewing a "Jap" Settler

Who Migrated From Texas

That Japanese at Ithaca was leaning back up against the rear door of his little car, which had been made into a sort of bus with benches on the sides and with a delivery wagon top. He stood in a most self-possessed manner. After the usual greetings, I said, casually, "Anata no kuni doko deni ke?" (What part of Japan do you come from?). "Osaka," he answered, in English, for few Japanese will ever talk to a white man in Japanese.

"Where are you stopping?" I asked. "I should like to talk to you about Texas."

"Oh, we are camping out on the road just above Estes," he answered.

I was myself living on the opposite shore of Lake Cayuga in a summer cottage, with stoves for warming it. It was getting too chilly toward the end of October to be comfortable, even with stoves. Yet here was a Japanese, accustomed to a warmer climate, facing the rigors of our northern regions, subjecting his wife and children to obvious difficulties, but cheerful and hopeful and intrepid.

"Why don't you rent one of the many cottages now empty on our side of the lake?" I suggested. He looked a little taken aback, the thought that doubtless the owners would not care to have him, the first flicker of race prejudice in the East seemed to dawn upon him. I could not help admiring him, youthful looking, cheerfully solemn, sort of a stray bit of humanity being buffeted about by fate.

While I stood talking to him I saw the way the thing must have worked in California. A man I knew came up. He had a fifty or a hundred acre piece of land which he was evidently unable to make use of himself. In most of the country districts round about to

be found poor is no novelty. Everybody owns some slice of land somewhere of which he would gladly be rid. Things soon become stabilized in a country, stabilized often to the point of stagnation. Nobody moves or changes his holdings.

Settlement of One Jap Means

Beginning of a Community

But along comes this Japanese with an "incredible" amount of money and immediately disturbs the somnolent peace of the community. The newcomer has his pick. He is fixed quite naturally, for he is a good fellow at least, an inoffensive curiosity. He looks to those of his kind who have come here to do nothing but spend their money as students or visitors. But this man now intends to trade, to enter into competition with his neighbors. The very fact that he is unique at first will doubtless keep him more or less isolated. He therefore settles to his kin and friends of the generous treatment accorded him. Others come. And in a little while a small community will spring into being.

Of course, judging from the tendency of Japanese immigration in the past, there is no imminent prospect of any Eastern invasion of Japan from the West. This is essentially a matter of climate. The Japanese do not like cold countries. They have plenty of room in the north of their own empire, but this is too cold to suit them. Japanese claim rather peculiar adaptability in the colonization of warm and tropical regions. During my first summer in Japan the narakin (war made millionaires) began ostentatiously to leave their summer homes for cooler climates and were seriously upbraided by their newspapers. Editors pointed out that Japanese should not run away from the heat, that by virtue of their ability to stand intense heat they would prove themselves specially fit for colonization of the tropics, as they are doing in the Marshall Islands, which have fallen into their hands. And as they have done in the hottest portions of California.

So I do not believe that many Japanese will risk our cold regions. But in order to understand the situation which obtains in California and which resulted in the initiative being passed last election, we must bear in mind the peculiar natural conditions which made of the coast a very desirable Japanese resort. Still there are any number of districts in Japan, away from the southern coast, between Kyoto and the Japan Sea coast, for instance, which are fully as good as is New York State. And these are some of the most populated provinces in Japan.

There is then no simple rule by which the chess game of Japanese expansion can be anticipated. Climate is not the absolute bar to them. They go pretty much where they like and adapt themselves to conditions as well as we do. And the text of the new California land law reveals the processes by which the Japanese have held their own against the pressure of the opinion of the white population.

To begin with the measure is absolutely an exclusion act. But it is much more than that. Although it speaks of the "rights" of

aliens, it centers most of its attention on "the disabilities of certain companies, associations and corporations with respect to property in the State." After individuals were barred from the ownership of land the Japanese succeeded in acquiring title as corporations with a sufficient number of white people in them to make them legal. The white man simply loaned the use of his name to evade the law. And because American born Japanese could not be prevented from acquiring land, the Japanese took advantage of this relationship and had themselves appointed as guardians. There are still very few American born Japanese of age to be able to take title themselves.

Elphaleet Remington 3d, hale and hearty, with eyes well nigh as keen as those of a boy, recently celebrated his ninety-second birthday. The oldest of America's living inventors, he is a splendid contradiction to the theory that there is no such thing as the aristocracy of genius. The Remingtons for three generations have given impressive evidence of the persistence of a creative strain marked by the production of many extremely useful things in the realm of mechanics.

Elphaleet Remington is what might be termed the middleman of this record, the present pivotal point in a tale of public service that is unique. Indeed, to be exact, what he and his have done has in one form or another, reached the world over and influenced modern life in numerous ways. But in order to appreciate just what this man represents as a type of what all America may be proud, let us go back one generation and show how environment, quite as much as blood, called into being and then perpetuated the effort that has made the family name famous.

Forced to Make His Own Gun
Boy Turns Out Marvel

In 1781 Elphaleet Remington 2d was born on his father's farm in Herkimer county New York, not far from the place where the bustling town of Ilion now stands. At that time the wooded hills of the district teemed with game of all sorts, and the farming fraternity laid aside their ploughs and field implements at certain seasons to spend some of their days in the relaxation of hunting. It was the ambition of every boy to own a gun so that he might share in the sport which absorbed his elders. Elphaleet Remington 2d was no exception to his husky, red blooded comrades, and along about 1810 he begged his father to give him money enough wherewith to buy a rifle. His father declined for good and sufficient reasons.

Worthwhile firearms then cost a tidy sum. They were for the most part luxuries, as the best of them came from abroad. Elphaleet 2d would stand no denial; he felt that he must have a weapon, and once again necessity—for such it seemed to him—proved the mother of invention. Farming equipment in those far off years was very largely made and repaired by the husbandman himself, and for this purpose Elphaleet Remington 2d had built a little forge and workshop on his place. There his son had learned to handle the tools of the blacksmith and to fashion iron and steel as occasion required. Accordingly, Elphaleet 2d set about fashioning a gun for himself out of handy scrap material. He took flat strips of steel, which

he wound around a rod heated them to the right degree and welded them into the barrel for his gun to be. This was the work of weeks, and when finished represented but part of the task involved. He had no facilities wherewith to cut the rifling, so essential to the accurate flight of the bullet. Undaunted, the lad tramped fifteen miles to Utica and there found a gunsmith, who was so impressed with the barrel as it was that he gladly rifled it and provided a lock as well.

It was a comparatively easy matter then for the boy to cut a stock and fit it to his weapon. With his piece ready, Elphaleet 2d and a group of admiring fellows went out to try it. From the very first shot the gun proved to be extremely accurate, and the people around looked upon the youngest-handiwork as little short of marvellous. His father's pride was great. In consequence the little forge on the farm was kept busy thereafter well nigh continuously as the neighbors clamored for rifles of the same pattern.

It soon became evident to the two Remingtons that the force would not answer their purpose, and they talked of rearing a factory. Before this was done, however, Elphaleet Senior died. Elphaleet 2d married and moved to Ilion, and there, in quarters better suited to his needs, he commenced the manufacture in dead earnest of so-called Remington firearms.

In the course of years three sons were



born to Elphaleet Remington 2d—Philo, Samuel, and Elphaleet 3d—and when they were old enough the lads started to work in their father's gun factory. It is a matter of common knowledge how the firm of E. Remington & Sons played its part in providing guns for the Federal troops during the civil war. Similarly other nations adopted the weapon for their soldiers subsequently. The burden carried by Elphaleet 2d during that period of strife sapped his strength and carried him to a comparatively early grave. However, the three boys were true to the family strain and were equal to the demands of the business.

At the close of the Franco-Prussian conflict, when orders for firearms dwindled, the Remingtons were very well to do and contemplated retiring from the manufacturing field. But they would not consider their own convenience alone. The town of Ilion had grown largely because of the people called there by the demands of the plant, and the welfare of these neighbors and co-workers depended upon turning the enterprise into other lines of activity—the development of peace time inventions. In this the inherited genius of the Remingtons came to the rescue. Agriculture needed help and the Remingtons devoted thousands of their dollars in testing out and in perfecting new farming implements. Next they went in for the making of velocipedes and finally the bicycle became a standard Remington product. Then the sewing machine attracted

their attention and they made them for household service and also patterned them for special work. Thus in a spirit of progress and of responsibility they added, successively to the number of their useful commodities.

In the early seventies the Remingtons took up the problem of the typewriter and for ten years labored without cease to make a practicable machine. It was during this interval that two of the brothers, Philo and Samuel, died, leaving Elphaleet 3d to continue the family business. When brought to a point of splendid promise, mechanically sound, the typewriter was still ahead of the times. For a comparatively small sum the rights to the instrument were sold to three former employees of the Remington factory, and it is common knowledge that a fortune was subsequently amassed by these far seeing young men.

Inventive Traits Continue
In the Younger Generation

Elphaleet Remington 3d has something more than his beneficence and the acknowledgments of his creative skill to comfort him in his age and, withal, vigorous years. His son, Philo Remington 2d, born in 1870, has inherited the inventive traits of his forebears, and, thanks to a scientific education, which neither his father nor grandfather enjoyed, he is especially fitted to take over the reins which must be dropped ere long by his still capable parent. Back in 1895 Philo built one of the first automobiles in this country and even then had the vision of a system by which a one price machine could be turned out in quantity. He thus anticipated a practice that has to-day the stamp of commercial approval.

During the last two decades Philo Remington 2d has applied his talents in several directions, but none of these is likely to be more generally recognized than his recent labors in perfecting the phonograph. Inventors by hundreds have given of their best to devise mediums that would more accurately interpret the vocal and instrumental melodies carried by the records.

In varying degrees success has rewarded these essays, but still the results have left much to be desired—fine as they are when compared with earlier achievements. Mr. Remington, however, has evolved a unique type of ball bearing reproducer fitted with a flexible diaphragm—features that have no equivalents in the machines now on the market; and this apparatus is said to render with rare faithfulness the tones and shades of the original sound waves.

What next will this prolific family do for us? Remember that Elphaleet 3d still carries on because of a mind kept alert by four score years and more of well directed efforts.

tion of property held contrary to the law—that is, it is to be sold and the proceeds (not the property itself) distributed to the heirs; or where it is not a case of inheritance, but simply a violation of ownership, the property shall pass to the State of California. This addition has been made. That in case agricultural land through debt or mortgage falls into the possession of any alien ineligible to own land, he may not hold it for more than two years.

In the whole question of the evasion of the existing law in California, the tendency is to regard the Japanese as the offenders. But it stands to reason that without the assistance of white people in California there

This without doubt is to pour oil on the troubled waters. The California law has sought carefully not to interfere with such rights as Japan has had under our treaty with her. In that matter neither nation has any complaint against the other. It has never been charged or proved that the Japanese Government occasionally broke her promise in the matter of emigration. But it is also obvious that it should never have been left to Japan to carry out. If I have a home I have an inalienable right to say who shall or shall not come to live with me, however prejudiced and selfish I may be in the matter.

Having allowed the Japanese to come in, however, as has been the case during the past, no new law should be permitted to be retroactive so as to deprive them of the fruits of their labors. True that much of this has been acquired through evasion. If the Japanese now in California are so obnoxious to the Americans, certainly they should be assisted to find places for themselves elsewhere. With an absolute cessation of the immigration of labor the abiding Japanese will be given a chance to prove their assimilability. Be that as it may, the issue is not vital enough to the Japanese as a nation ever to become sufficient ground for conflict.

The Jingoists Cry Revenge

But This Does Not Mean Rupture

There are jingoists in Japan who cry revenge. But no one who knows the emotional nature of the Japanese and the quality of its press would for a moment believe that any direct rupture is likely to result from the passage of this law. California has discriminated against the Japanese, but on economic rather than racial grounds, and in that not more severely than has Japan's ally, Australia, on racial grounds. California wanted the Constitution changed so that no Japanese born in America could be by virtue of birth an American citizen. That is a national matter and does not belong to this discussion.

Though California may have solved the problem as far as she is concerned, it remains to be seen what the new treaty with Japan will do to solve it for the nation as a whole. Free and unlimited admission of Asiatic people has been desired both in Japan as in America and Australia. No one who has even the simplest understanding of the problem of population and reproduction across this point. Furthermore, as friends and guests no one has ever regarded the Japanese as undesirable. It is difficult to be friends with them, to be sure, but not impossible and very often very profitable while. This discussion has nothing whatever to do with race prejudice. Were it handled from that point of view the Japanese would have much to explain in their own disdain for foreigners.

Daily there are interviews in the press with Japanese statesmen which repeat the need of "an understanding" yet that understanding can come about only if the facts are given upon which we can stand. The Japanese are not taking up the fight for racial equality to all Asiatic people. No one hears a word in defense of the Chinese from the Japanese. So there seems to be no doubt that the difficulty now paramount between us will vanish as it did when Japan was confronted by the Premier of Australia at the peace conference. As in that case Japan yielded on the matter of sentiment in favor of the Shantung award so it seems the issue between us over the California land law will die down. At any rate we must permit it to blind us to much more important issues which will not be downed in the Far East.

Two New Courses in K. of C. Schools

The increasing opportunities offered young men and women in civil service and foreign service have prompted the Knights of Columbus to introduce courses in both these callings in their free night schools. In fact, in New York city they have established the first free exclusively civil service school in the country. Archbishop Hayes has given the Knights Cathedral College at nights for the civil service school they will operate in New York.

Throughout their chain of schools, which embraces 100 of C. in the last eighteen months have given courses that qualify former service men and women for civil service examinations. But so great has been